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# Ophthalmic Literature

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## OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE.

Biological  
& Medical  
Serials

The chief purpose of this journal is to render the current literature of ophthalmology directly available to those engaged in ophthalmic practice. It is not intended to duplicate any journal now published. But it is intended to make every such journal more serviceable to its readers, and also to assist special students, and those engaged in editorial work.

The need for something of the kind has been felt by those working actively in the literature of ophthalmology; and this same need exists for a larger number of workers, who do not yet appreciate it. The preliminary announcement of such an undertaking brought interesting letters, some of which illustrate this point.

One writer of wide reputation writes: "I think your proposed literary bureau a fine thing, but inasmuch as I take about 25 journals myself, I do not feel like going in for it." Another says: "Situated as I am, with over one hundred medical journals coming to my office, and easy access to the large library across the street, I do not feel that I would care to receive the service."

These correspondents, and others, seem to think that they have so much ophthalmic literature that nothing is left for them to desire in that direction. With a little consideration they would understand that a library catalogue is most useful to one who has access to the library, and that the value of classified lists increases directly with the amount of literature at hand thereby rendered more serviceable.

Another class of practitioners who seem not to understand the real uses of ophthalmic literature, write like this: "I do so little writing that I do not feel the need of such services as you propose." Many of the busy, successful men in large cities seem to share this feeling; as though ophthalmic literature were only of value in furnishing material for quotations and bibliographies, with which to adorn their own "original" productions. Some are so busy they cannot use such a

publication; as though the busy man could dispense with an aid that would economize his time.

We admit that it has been difficult or impossible for a busy practitioner to search the pages of current medical journals, for a paper to throw light on some obscure important case that he is treating; or even to consult some article that he remembers clearly to have read a few months back. But we are convinced that the literature of ophthalmology can be so indexed and classified that this will become easily possible. We find that enough appreciate the need and value of such a help and the enormous waste of time if every one undertakes to do it all himself, to justify us in this undertaking; and we realize that this appreciation will spread so that the service can be extended and perfected.

OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE is printed for English reading ophthalmologists. Its first aim will be to deal with the literature of most interest to ophthalmologists. This is found chiefly in the ophthalmic journals of the world. General medical journals publish a certain number of ophthalmic papers. But the facts of interest and importance to the ophthalmologist that first appear in such journals are very few, and they quickly reappear in the pages of special journals. And only in the special journals do they come within easy access of large numbers of ophthalmologists. Again, it is the special journals published in English that will be most generally available to large numbers of our readers. Hence our first endeavor will be to make perfectly accessible everything of scientific interest that appears in ophthalmic literature published in English, whether this be in books, monographs, society transactions, hospital reports, original articles, or review and abstract departments. Each monthly issue will be an index, for which one does not need to wait until the end of the year. We hope that the reader of a single ophthalmic journal will find it worth having; that the subscriber to several will deem it indispensable; and that the student who has access to a large medical library will understand the enormous extension of opportunity that such an aid brings to him.

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#### OUR PLAN.

In a general way our plan is: to publish at the beginning of each month, a classified topical index of ophthalmic publications that have come to hand during the preceding month, from all parts of the world. This index will occupy the larger part of each issue. It will be more fully explained in a later

number when it has reached more nearly its full development. With the list we shall publish such notices of general works on ophthalmology as will give in brief space the clearest idea of the character and scope of each of these publications. A third feature will be a mention of those journal articles that seem of such general interest as to merit attention from all who undertake to keep posted on the progress of ophthalmology.

We will not undertake to demonstrate importance by the amount of good paper we can cover with printer's ink. But within the limits we have imposed on our monthly issue, we hope to find space for the discussion each month of some live question relating to ophthalmic literature.

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#### AN INVITATION.

We ask that every subscriber shall feel that this undertaking is for mutual benefit. To all who honor us with criticisms or suggestions we will give attention; and to as many as possible space for publication. Whatever seems to promise the improvement of OPTHALMIC LITERATURE or the better accomplishment of its purpose, will be gladly adopted. We especially ask readers to call our attention to all errors noted.

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#### BOOK NOTICES.

Monographs and important reprints will be noticed under their appropriate headings in the classified lists.

**John E. Weeks**, New York. A Treatise on Diseases of the Eye. Octavo, 944 pages, 528 illustrations, 25 full-page plates. Cloth, \$6.00. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia and New York.

This treatise includes chapters on the development and anatomy of the eye, 70 pages; and on preparation of specimens for diagnosis in the search for micro-organisms, 10 pages. A chapter on general principles of optics (22 pages) has been contributed by W. N. Souter, and one on movements of the eyeball and their anomalies, 50 pages, by Alex. Duane. The whole work is divided into 31 chapters. The subject matter is grouped in the usual way, as Chapter V The Eyelids, VI The Lacrimal Apparatus, VII The Conjunctiva, etc. Of the plates nearly all are in colors; nine illustrate development and anatomy; five, conditions of the fundus; and five, the anterior segment of the eyeball in disease. The last are particularly good. Recent progress in ophthalmology is fairly reflected in this work, especially as regards bacteriology and allied subjects.

**William Norwood Souter**, Washington. The Refractive and Motor Mechanism of the Eye. Octavo, 353 pages, 148 illustrations. The Keystone Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

This book presents the theoretic side of its subjects, in a way not difficult to understand, for those chiefly interested in the practical side of anomalies of refraction and disorders of ocular movement. The algebraic formulas are massed in an appendix. To each chapter is appended a list of the authorities consulted in its preparation.

**Derrick T. Vail**, Cincinnati. *Smith's Cataract Operation*. Octavo, 82 pages, 34 illustrations. The Lancet-Clinic Publishing Co., Cincinnati.

This was written during a visit to Smith's Clinic at Julundur. It endeavors to report Smith's operation as done by Smith himself, and the author's observations and experience while attending that clinic. The book is of value for its illustrations, most of them from diagrammatic sketches by the author.

*Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom*, Volume xxx, 494 pages, illustrated. J. and A. Churchill, London.

This volume is of special value because it contains a complete index of volumes xxi to xxx inclusive. There are 10 page plates, 5 of which are colored representations of the fundus. There are 33 other illustrations including numerous diagrams illustrating the occurrence of hereditary ocular conditions. These transactions are also published in parts during the year.

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